Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that in response to a large number of complaints which were received regarding fast running of electronic meters, a Committee was set up by the Commission to look into the matter. The Committee tested about 375 meters, which were randomly selected from the stores of the DISCOMs. These meters were tested in the test bench set up in the Commision office, 91% of these meters recorded consumption levels within the prescribed limits given in the Indian Electricity Rules. About 2% of the meters were found to be slow and 0.5% were found to be faster than the prescribed limit. About 5% of the meters were found to be defective (seemingly due to design features) and they belong to a particular brand, namely, M/s. TTL. The Commission has directed the DISCOMs not to install any meters of TTL make until the design defects in them are rectified and the sample meters tested by the Committee before installation.

Providing Free Power without Budgetory Support

640. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State could provide free power without budgetary support to reimburse the State Electricity Boards;

(b) the States supplying free powers to farmers and other consumers; and

(c) the new power policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have the powers to fix tariff for sale of electricity to consumers taking into account the revenue requirement of distribution licensees. Section 65 of the Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the SERCs, the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensees the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy.

As per the available information the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are providing free power to agricultural consumers. Tamil Nadu is also providing free power to the hut consumers. State of

Madhya Pradesh is providing free power to the agricultural consumers of SC/ST categories having land holding upto 1 hectare and for pumps upto 5 horsepower only. These governments have committed to pay the amount of subsidy as directed by the concerned State Regulatory Commission.

T and D Losses

641. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the losses of the SEBs during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is true that the losses of the SEBs could touch Rs. 1 lakh crores annually in the next 5 years if the SEBs don't take steps to bring down T and D losses to minimum; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevail upon the SEBs to bring down T and D losses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Details indicating the state-wise losses of the utilities for the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are enclosed as statement (*see* below)

(b) and (c) A number of steps have taken by Government of India to improve the performance of SEBs/Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. Funds are provided to states under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, *inter alia*, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, through grants, reduction of cash losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitised under tripartite agreements.